

## Claims

1. A fuel filter having a filter housing and at least one filter element contained therein, having at least two connections (4, 8, 8a, 8b), at least one of which serves as a fuel inlet and at least one of which serves as a fuel outlet, characterized in that the filter element (11) is embodied as flat.
2. The fuel filter according to claim 1, characterized in that the filter element (11) contains a folded filter material (40).
3. The fuel filter according to claim 2, characterized in that the filter material (40) is folded essentially into the shape of a block.
4. The fuel filter according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the filter element (11) has an encapsulated clean side (13) that is connected to the connection (8, 8a, 8b) serving as the fuel outlet.
5. The fuel filter according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the filter element (11) has an encapsulated dirty side (16, 18) that is connected to the connection (4) serving as the fuel inlet.
6. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 5, characterized by means of two or more filter elements.

7. The fuel filter according to one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that at least one of the connections (4, 8, 8a, 8b, 21, 22, 23) is situated at an end (2e, 2f) of the filter housing (2).
8. The fuel filter according to claim 7, characterized in that at least two of the connections (4, 8) are situated at opposite ends (2e, 2f) of the filter housing (2).
9. The fuel filter according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by means of a flow entry that at least reduces turbulence in the region of the side where the flow strikes the filter element (11).
10. The fuel filter according to claim 9, characterized by means of a flow baffle provided in the connection (4) serving as the fuel inlet.
11. The fuel filter according to claim 10, characterized in that the flow baffle is inclined upward in relation to the flow direction.
12. The fuel filter according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the filter housing (2) includes a block-shaped housing part (3a) and a cover (3f) that closes the housing part (3a).
13. The fuel filter according to claim 12, characterized in that the housing part (3a) and the cover (3f) are connected to each other by means of a nondetachable connection.

14. The fuel filter according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the fuel filter has a distribution stabilizer (30) on the inlet side.